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RADIO SERVICE
Farm News Digest
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
United States Department of Agriculture

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PREPARED AND SYNDICATED BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Release week of July 5, 1926.

Milk Consumption Reaches New Mark.

Milk consumption in the United States last year reached the highest point in the Nation's history, the quantity of milk, including cream, consumed in fluid form being 54,326,000,000 pounds, an increase of 1,554,000,000 pounds over 1924.

Food Products Inspected by Agricultural Officials.

The Department of Agriculture has announced that at a meeting in New York June 18 with officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad, arrangements were made to inaugurate daily meat grading service covering purchases for dining cars and restaurants. Service for the present will be confined to New York, and will be extended to other important centers as fast as the department inspectors are prepared to handle the business. Several large New York hotels are expected to install similar service soon.

Avoid Ham Injections in Treating Hogs to Prevent Cholera.

Veterinarians and others are cautioned by the U. S. Department of Agriculture against injecting serum and virus into the hams when immunizing hogs against cholera. Frequently infectious material is carried into the ham by a contaminated hypodermic needle and damage results through the formation of abscesses at the point of the injection. When such unsound hams are discovered at the packing house they are condemned as unfit for food, but in some instances the abscesses are so deep-seated in the meat that they can not be detected at the time the hams are trimmed and inspected preparatory to curing. Instances have been reported where the presence of such abscesses was not revealed until after the ham had reached the consumer. Immunication can be accomplished just as effectually when the serum is injected into the axillary space under the shoulder (corresponding to the armpit in man), where no damage will result should an abscess form. The same applies when the virus is injected under the skin at any place where the conditions are favorable for absorption. Losses can be avoided if hog raisers will refuse to allow either serum or virus to be injected into the hams when their hogs are being immunized against cholera.

Grubs of Green June Beetles Controlled by P aris Green.

Poisoned-bran bait, consisting of 1 pound of Paris green to 25 pounds of bran, when applied to tobacco plant beds will effectively control the grubs of green June beetles. This has been demonstrated in experiments conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The practice of preparing the beds in new places every year is giving way to that of having permanent beds, according to Farmers' Bulletin 1489-F, "The Green June Beetle Larva in Tobacco Plant Beds." A covering of manure, tobacco stalks, straw, and similar material is placed over the beds as soon as the plants are removed to the field, in order to maintain their fertility. The grubs develop rapidly in this layer of decaying vegetable matter, some of them becoming full grown by late fall and burrowing deeply into the soil for the winter. The new publication contains considerable information relative to the causes of beetle infestation, the character of injury to the tobacco plants, how to determine the presence of the grubs in the beds, and various control measures. A copy of the bulletin may be obtained free, as long as the supply lasts, by writing to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Expect Less Smutty Wheat in Northwest this Year.

Marked reduction in the smut damage to wheat in the spring wheat section of the Northwest is expected this year by Department of Agriculture officials as a result of the recent smut prevention campaign conducted in that territory. Report from county agricultural agents indicate a great increase in the use of copper carbonate for treating seed wheat against smut, estimates being made in some cases that from 70 to 80 per cent of the farmers treated their seed before planting. The campaign is regarded by department officials as one of the most successful in which they have been given opportunity to participate. It is estimated that millions of dollars will be added to the spring wheat crop should there be even a small decrease in smut damage.

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Release week of July 12, 1926.

Americans Lead World as Apple Eaters.

Although consumption of apples in the United States is less than the proverbial "apple a day," averaging about 3 apples a week per capita, the American people lead the world as apple eaters, according to the Department of Agriculture, which has been making a comprehensive study of the production and marketing of apples sold in barrels. Estimates for the British Isles average about 2 apples a week, and in most countries of continental Europe the consumption of apples is comparatively light. Three states---New York, Michigan, and Virginia--produce nearly one-half the average commercial crop of the barrel region. Cold storage, in most sections, has largely superseded common storage for long keeping of market apples. Sometimes over one-fourth of the commercial apple crop is reported in cold storage at the height of the season. Barreled apples comprise about half the average stock in cold storage. Of the fruits exported from the United States, apples rank first in point of value, with total exports as fresh fruit for the year ending June 30, 1924, of 2,032,000 barrels and 6,198,000 boxes, valued at over $23,000,000. The United Kingdom purchases about three-fourths of our surplus apples, while the largest percentage of dried apples goes to the Netherlands, Germany, and Scandinavian countries. The increasing proportion of high grade fruit in the markets is driving out apples not well grown, well sorted, and well packed. Only the product of the well managed commercial orchards in sections with some advantages of climate, soil, and location seems to have much chance to survive intense competition.

Many States Receive Federal Funds to Fight Forest Fires.

Thirty-three States will receive Federal funds to be spent in preventing forest fires on State and privately-owned land, according to the Department of Agriculture. The amount to be distributed totals $607,670 and became available on July 1. Minnesota, Michigan, North Carolina, Maine, Alabama, Washington, Oregon, California, Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, Virginia, Louisiana, Idaho, and Wisconsin are among the States receiving more than $20,000 each.

Economists See Further Improvement in the Farm Situation this Year.

This year may well prove to be another season of improvement in agricultural consitions, saysthe Department of Agriculture in its July report on the farm situation. "The stage is set for strong hog prices well into next year, prospects for wheat growers are moderately good, cattle are 'coming back' in the West, and the dairy industry is picking up in the East." Conditions of a crop season ordinarily are fairly well defined by this time of the year, the department points out, but the weather this season has been so backward and varied that cotton, corn, potatoes, and even wheat, are largely a speculation at this date. The carlot movement of early vegetables, however, has been fully as heavy as last year, due partly to the early season in the Far West. Abundant fruit crops are in prospect. Hay is apparently a short crop, except in the Far West, and stocks of old hay are low also.

Mangy Hogs Bring Less on the Market.

The raising and marketing of hogs is now a more profitable enterprise than it has been for a number of years. On June 25 the price of hogs in the Chicago market ranged from $13.55 to $15.00 a hundred pounds. Swine growers and feeders are interested in getting the top price. It is important, then, that the animals reach the buyer in good condition, well-finished, and, especially, free of disease. It frequently happens that hogs with mange are allowed to reach the market. This condition often affects growth and fattening and makes the animals less desirable. Hog mange is caused by insect-like parasites called mites. The sores in the early stage are found on the head around the eyes, nose, and ears, and from these parts they spread, according to the activities of the mites, until the entire skin is involved. Manage may be prevented by keeping the hogs in clean pens or pastures away from filthy wallow holes and by the use of oilers or rubbing posts. Crude oil (petroleum) is effective in keeping the animals free of parasites, including mange mites. If the herd has become affected with mange, dipping will be found effective in destroying the mites.

Forty Six Breeds of Dogs Important in U. S.

The dog population of the United States is approximately 7,000,000, according to estimates, says the Department of Agriculture. About 60 breeds of dogs are considered of enough consequence to be given a classification in the dog world. Only 46 of this number, however, are of sufficient importance in this country to warrant inclusion in Farmers' Bulletin 1491-F, Breeds of Dogs, just issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

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PREPARED AND SYNDICATED BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Release week of July 19, 1926.

Radio Chief Talks to College Editors.

Radio on the farm is yielding more dollars and cents return on the investment, developing a more prosperous American agriculture and bringing about a better contented, understanding class of farmers than any other single scientific contribution of the age, Sam Pickard, Chief of Radio, U. S. Department of Agriculture, told the convention of agricultural college editors which has been meeting this week at East Lansing, Michigan.

The Big-Team Idea Grows.

Twelve to twenty horse teams are coming rapidly into use for plowing, seeding and harvesting in Montana and other "dry farming" areas of the United States where land is plentiful, thus increasing the production per man, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Equalized hitches and simple harness have facilitated the handling of large teams. This fact coupled with the absolute necessity of holding labor costs down in an area where wages are high and average crop yields per acre low has prompted thousands of farmers to "double up" their power resources by using bigger teams. Where low or medium yields per acre are to be expected, farmers must seed a large acreage and do the work at a low cost if they are to make a profit. This is accomplished on many western farms by the use of mechanical power. In some localities, however, animal power is more practicable, particularly where crop rotations involve large production of forage. Larger teams are recommended throughout the wheat States, and even in the Corn Belt where improved equipment for cultivating with big teams is coming into favor.

Further Increase in Ice-Cream Consumption.

This is a nation of ice-cream eaters. The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 322,729,000 gallons of ice-cream were eaten last year.

Federal Hay Inspector at Cincinnati.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has arranged to station a Federal Hay Inspector at Cincinnati. The office will be Room 63, Fosdick Building also the location of the Office of Federal Grain Inspection. The stationing of a Federal hay inspector at Cincinnati is believed to be a big step in the Federal hay inspection work. Much of the hay moving from producing sections in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan to the consuming territory in the Cotton States passes through the Cincinnati market. The location of an inspector at Cincinnati therefore will increase materially the opportunities for Northern producers and Southern consumers to trade on the basis of Federal inspection.

Demand Developing for Low Grade American Cotton.

There appears now to be a definite demand for low-grade cottons of all lengths of staple and of late there has been active buying of the lowest of the low grades. Reports indicate that low-grade cottons are going into many constructions of fabrics in which finishing qualities are not important. It appears also that there has been some blending of these low grades with the high grades which were accumulated by manufacturers earlier in the season.

Small P rofits in Turpentining Small Trees.

There is no profit in turpentining trees that yield less than 25 barrels of spirits from a "crop" of 10,000 trees. To give a fair margin of profit, it is recommended that no tree under 8 inches in diameter at breast height, or 9 inches in diameter at 2 feet above the ground, should be worked. In 5 or 6 years such trees will yield 6 or 7 barrels of spirits to the crop more than they do now, and may then be worked at a profit instead of at a loss.

New Quarantine Proposed for Controlling Spread of White Pine Blister Rust.

Tentative quarantine measures involving the entire Continental United States on account of the white pine blister rust disease have been drafted. Copies of the proposed quarantine are today being distributed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to all interested parties for further comment before the measure is handed to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval. The proposed quarantine would replace all existing blister rust quarantines and is expected to become effective September 1, 1926. This measure prohibits or restricts the movement of five-leafed pines and current and gooseberry plants from any state.

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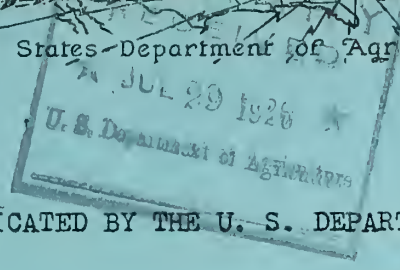

PREPARED AND SYNDICATED BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Release week of July 26, 1926.

Farm Returns Show Further Improvements.

Further improvement in the financial condition of farmers in 1925 over the preceding three years is shown by the annual survey of farm returns released today by the Department of Agriculture. Reports from 15,330 farmers in all parts of the country show an average net return of $1,297 for those farms. The average size of the farms was 304 acres, with an average investment of $17,149. Average gross receipts were $2,551, consisting of $933 from crop sales, $897 from sales of livestock, $585 from sales of livestock products, and $76 from miscellaneous products. Average current cash expenses totaled $1,477, consisting of $386 for hired labor, $242 for livestock bought, $244 for feed bought, $69 for fertilizer $47,for seed, $191 for taxes, $119 for new machinery and tools, and $179 for miscellaneous items. Receipts less cash expenses averaged $1,074, inaddition to which the farmer used home-grown food products valued at an average of $283.

Division of Cooperative Marketing Created as Result of New Law.

A division of cooperative marketing has been created in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to the provisions of the Cooperative Marketing Bill, which was approved and signed by the President just before Congress adjourned. The research, educational and service work relating to cooperative marketing will be considerably enlarged under the provisions of this act. The department, through the new division, will now be able to give the same attention to the development of cooperative marketing among farmers as has been extended to problems of production. This will be done by the collection, study and dissemination of information regarding the cooperative movement in the United States and foreign countries.

Dried Prune Production Shows Increase.

About 172,900 tons of dried prunes were produced in 1925 and 171,300 tons in 1924 in the four States from which this dried fruit is obtained--Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California.

Government Warns Public Against Fraudulent Radioactive Waters and Drugs

The alleged medicinal efficacy of slightly radioactive waters and other slightly radioactive preparations has been found to be much misrepresented, say offices of the Bureau of Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The products analyzed for content of radium included hair tonics, bath compounds, suppositories, tissue creams, tonic tablets, face powders, ointments, mouth washes, and other preparations in solid, semi-solid and liquid form for which therapeutic value because of alleged radioactivity was claimed. Only five per cent of the products analyzed and claimed to be radioactive contained radium in sufficient qualities to render them entitled to consideration as therapeutic agents and then only in certain very limited conditions, say the officials.

Cotton and Rubber Expedition Returns from So. America.

The discovery of several new types of cotton is reported by members of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who returned recently from a three months' exploration trip in the West Indies and South America. Some of these cotton plants have characters that may be of value in practical cotton-bfeeding work in the United States. One of the new types has bracts that are open or turned back from the buds and young bolls so that little protection is afforded for boll weevils or other pests and diseases. Such cotton could also be picked with less "trash" or broken bract material and the grades would be improved.

Hay Growers and Dealers May Bid on Army Contracts.

Many hay dealers and hay producers do not know they can bid on any part of contracts to furnish hay to the United States Army, says the Department of Agriculture. The United States Army,which uses between 7,000 and 8,000 cars of hay annually, is one of the largest buyers of hay in this country. The hay is bought on contracts which usually cover the supply for a given section for a three months period and which are let always to the lowest reliable bidder.

Nation's Salad Crop Becomes Popular.

Consumption of lettuce---the Nation's salad crop---has increased greatly in the past ten years. Lettuce shipments last season, were six times those reported in 1916, and the value was not much below $20,000,000. Only three other vegetables--potatoes, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes--exceeded lettuce in market value.

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Insect Damage to Grain Reduced by Early Harvesting and Prompt Fumigation.

It is best to harvest grain crops as soon as possible after maturity and to fumigate them promptly in order to kill any stored-grain insects. Farmers now suffer enormous losses from insect damage to grains. Farmers' Bulletin 1483-F just issued, brings out many interesting facts relative to the cause and extent of insect infestation of grains. Illustrations are given in the bulletin of corn cribs designed to permit effective fumigation and instructions are given for their construction. The new publication also discusses the fumigation of grain with heavier-than-air gases, effect of fumigation on the germination of seed, heating grain, and other related topics. A copy of the bulletin may be obtained free, as long as the supply lasts, by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Practical Hog Houses Described in New Bulletin.

Proper housing is an important factor in the successful raising of hogs. Too often this is neglected, when little expense and effort would be required to provide good, serviceable, well-ventilated houses which give ample protection from cold and admit much needed sunshine. The same kind of housing for hogs does not apply to all parts of the country, however. In Farmers' Bulletin 1487-F just issued by the Department, is described a number of practical hog houses for several sections of the country.

Boys Supply Pure Seed for County.

The pure-seed club boys of Roosevelt County, New Mexico, are not only supplying the farmers of their own county with pure and certified grain sorghum seed, but last year sold 1,000 pounds of certified seed outside their State. As a result of the club work, the majority of farmers in the country are using pure seed of one standard variety and report a 10 to 15 per cent increase in production.

Timber Growing Aided by Drainage.

Drainage as a means of timber growing is a new idea in this country, but promising tests by the Lake States Forest Experiment Station indicate that it can be a very successful means. The Forest Service estimates that the rate of tree growth on the 9,000,000 acres of swamp forest in the Lakes States may be doubled or trebled by partial drainage. White cedar, the standard wood for telephone poles and fence posts in many parts of the East and Middle West, spruce and balsam, much-sought-after pulp woods, and eastern tamarack or larch, one of the fastest growing conifers of this region, are the trees that would be most benefited by swamp drainage. Undrained, the swamps offer only a loose, acid soil of peat varying in depth from a few inches to 6 feet or more and swamp forests are typically unthrifty and slow of growth. The few investigations made thus far indicate that partial drainage greatly increases tree growth and the number of seedlings that come up in bare spots.

Agricultural Department Making National Survey of Peach Industry.

Marked expansion in the peach industry during the past five years is reported by the Department of Agriculture which is making an extensive survey of the business in cooperation with agricultural colleges and other local agencies in twenty-six producing states. The improved methods of transportation and distribution have placed the peach industry on a national basis, and growers must consider what is being done in competing producing districts throughout the country, as well as problems of marketing and local production, if the business is to be maintained on a sound economic basis. Since a number of years are required to bring a peach orchard into bearing, plans must be made several years ahead. When peaches first come on the markets prices are usually relatively high although the quality of the earliest varieties is generally conceded to be inferior to that of many of the later varieties. Grade, condition, and size of the fruit are important factors in establishing prices, says the department, emphasizing the necessity of proper grading and packing. The commission charged to growers by marketing agencies, shippers, or associations generally amounts to 5 or 10 per cent of the sale price, varying with the method of sale, the district and the shipper or marketing agency, according to the report. Freight rates, kind of container, varieties of peaches, and the condition of the fruit on the markets are factors having considerable effect on the returns to growers. The first part of the publication on this subject is now ready for distribution by the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.